



Mali

In Mali, prolonged droughts, land degradation, and increasingly erratic rainfall heighten insecurity and threaten agro-pastoral systems. Challenges in reliable energy access for the growing population risk disrupting markets and weakening access to basic services. However, with over 66% of Mali's 22 million inhabitants under the age of 25, there is strong potential for youth engagement to support long-term development.

To address these challenges, Mali has adopted key policy frameworks. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development, [SNEDD 2024-2033](#), and ongoing decentralisation reforms aim to provide strong government-led platforms to advance climate adaptation, strengthen local governance and security, and stimulate inclusive and sustainable economic growth through local value chain development.

SNV has worked in Mali since 1979 and currently operates in nearly all regions, supporting decentralised service delivery, inclusive market systems, and nature-based solutions. In 2024, SNV and partners reached over 304,000 people through initiatives in the agri-food, energy, and water sectors.

As governance systems evolve in the Sahel region, SNV supports locally anchored solutions that strengthen institutions, make market systems more inclusive, and enable youth, women, and marginalised groups to drive climate-resilient and equitable development.



Nearly 400K people

experienced improvements in their livelihoods, food security, and resilience



27K (agro)pastoralists

increased their agricultural income by 10%, through technical assistance and local market opportunities



Over 36K people

Gained access to clean energy through the use of improved cookstoves and biodigesters



Nearly 6.5K

tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided through the adoption of clean cooking technologies

** 2024 achievements

Responding to the climate crisis

Mali is among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, ranking [15th](#) most vulnerable out of 182 in 2023. Recent analyses by the National Meteorological Directorate show that the country has become hotter and drier over recent decades, with increasing temperatures and declining rainfall during the core wet months of July and August. To strengthen the resilience of communities, the Government of Mali promotes adaptation and low-carbon development in its [SNEDD 2024-2033](#), in parallel with green financing and agro-ecological and nature-based solutions. SNV supports these ambitions by working with local and national institutions to pilot and scale practical, low-carbon initiatives that contribute to ecosystem restoration efforts, helping to develop viable markets for the expansion of clean technologies—such as cooking and lighting—and strengthening climate-smart agriculture at landscape scale.

Soil Values | Multi-country | 2024-33 | €100M

Countries across the Sahel face mounting climate stress, land degradation, and declining agricultural productivity. The Soil Values programme contributes to restoring soil fertility on 2 million hectares of agricultural land in the region while strengthening the resilience and well-being of 1.5 million producers. In the Sikasso and Bani watersheds of Mali, Soil Values is scaling agro-ecological expertise through a cascade training model that empowers local partners and farmer leaders to transfer knowledge within communities. Farmer relays are disseminating techniques, such as composting, bokashi, biochar, zai pits, assisted natural regeneration, and balanced mineral and organic fertiliser use. To strengthen circular agriculture, 15 biodigesters have been constructed in Sikasso, enabling households to produce biogas and access high-quality organic fertiliser. Local authorities have welcomed this approach for its positive effect on farmer capacities, signalling a potential pathway to enabling more climate-resilient livelihoods for Sahelian farming communities. The Soil Values programme is currently being implemented in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.

Partners: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mali (EKN), SNV, IFDC, WUR, AGRA, CIFOR-ICRAF, IITA, ISRIC, and IWMI

ABC | Multi-country | 2022-26 | €2.4M

In 2022, when the African Biodigester Component (ABC) began operating in Mali, the biodigester market was almost non-existent due to weak technical capacity and low public awareness. Local economic interest groups,



created under earlier SNV interventions, struggled: there was no viable business model, investments were deemed too risky by financial institutions, and product quality remained low. ABC has addressed these challenges by co-developing a sustainable biodigester market across the Sahel using a market-based approach.

By 2024, 100 biodigesters had been installed in Mali, with staff of 11 local enterprises trained to strengthen business and improve service quality. As adoption grows, biodigesters are expected to enhance household energy security while improving soil fertility through high-quality organic effluent and opening new economic opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

Partners: EnDev, SNV, RVO, and ANERB

MADECC | Nationwide | 2019-25 | €2M

The Malian population relies heavily on wood for cooking, placing significant pressure on natural resources and contributing to climate change. To address this challenge, the Development of the Clean Cooking Sector Market in Mali (MADECC) project facilitated the market for renewable energy technologies for clean cooking (improved stoves) and developed commercial information on their use, as well as alternative fuels, through a behavioural change campaign.

Since 2021, MADECC has helped establish GWA+, a national quality label for improved cookstoves—named after the Bambara word for cookstoves—and tripled the market availability of certified improved cookstoves. These technologies, now used by more than 34,000 people, have decreased dependence on firewood, averting over 6,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions, helping to reduce deforestation, and contributing to Mali's low-carbon development goals.

Partners: EnDev, GIZ, SNV, and M-ACC

Accelerating inclusive development

In 2025, Mali ranked 188th on the [Gender Inequality Index](#), with women comprising 49.7% of the [population](#) and under-15s accounting for 47.2%. Although women and youth are known to contribute significantly to stability, they are often overlooked when it comes to access to opportunities.

As part of its ongoing commitment to inclusive development, the Government of Mali has adopted the National Gender Policy (PNG) and the National Youth Policy (PNJ), providing local governments with a roadmap to strengthen gender equality, youth inclusion, and socio-economic empowerment.

Multi-stakeholder and civil society mobilisation are critical to advancing the government's vision for inclusion. Sectors such as agri-food and clean energy fuel growth, with partners like SNV strengthening women's and young people's participation in local economies, governance spaces, and market systems. Through its inclusive programmes, SNV leverages the power of diversity to foster dialogue, entrepreneurship, and equitable access to opportunities, contributing to a more stable and inclusive Mali.

MOPSS-2 | Multi-country | 2023-28 | €12M

Pastoralist communities form a [significant part](#) of North and West Africa, providing the [primary source of livelihood](#) for more than 30% of Mali's population. Their presence contributes to competition over land, water, and grazing resources, which are essential for both pastoralists and other local groups. The Peaceful Cross-Border Pastoral Mobility and Social Stability in the Sahel (MOPSS-2) programme works to ease tensions across border areas of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Ghana by supporting peaceful coexistence among 95% of sedentary and transhumant households.

In Mali, 35 youth ambassadors have gained the skills to mediate disputes, facilitate dialogue, and serve as trusted peacebuilders. Through these youth ambassadors, a cohort of emerging leaders in peace and governance is being cultivated, supporting the

development of a more stable and inclusive agro-pastoral system throughout West Africa. Over 200 low-income households, owning a total of 12,710 livestock, have gained access to rehabilitated boreholes, reducing friction along transhumance routes. Fifteen solar-powered biodigesters were delivered, providing cleaner energy options and quality fertiliser.

The MOPSS-2 programme is currently being implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo, and Ghana.

Partners: ASDI, DANIDA, DDC, SNV, ROPA, RBM, APSS, CARE Denmark, and Hub rural

Pro-ARIDES | Multi-country | 2021-30 | €105.4M

Pro-ARIDES is a climate resilience initiative in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger that enhances food security and boosts rural incomes for farming and (agro-)pastoral households. It promotes climate-resilient production, inclusive land management, and strong market linkages.

In Mali, more than 70 agro-pastoral field schools across 148 villages now support women, youth SMEs, and farmer groups to improve nine agricultural crops. By 2024, farmer organisations had received 1,301 kg of improved seeds and established 262 replication fields. Access to markets and financing has grown through trade fairs and B2B workshops, and FCFA 16 million (€24,300) has been mobilised as loans via seven Village Savings and Credit Associations.

Increased local agency supported the establishment of 10 village land commissions and secured more than 3,700 hectares of pastoral land for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, demonstrating that meaningful farming household engagement and an enabling environment can positively influence how local economies are organised, how land and natural resources are governed, and how value chains are made more equitable.

The Pro-ARIDES programme is currently being implemented in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.

Partners: EKN, DANIDA, SNV, CARE, WUR, and KIT



Strengthening governance and institutions

Mali's decentralisation framework provides a foundation for inclusive and participatory governance. Yet challenges persist, including limited institutional capacity at the local level, security constraints, and gaps in service delivery. Nevertheless, political reforms are creating a more transparent enabling environment. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development prioritises governance, accountability, and equity. Through the [National Decentralization Policy \(DCPND\)](#), the government commits to strengthening fiscal decentralisation to improve basic service delivery and citizen participation. SNV and partners support these reforms by promoting dialogue, cross-border cooperation, and digitalisation to foster more representative and accountable governance systems.

PGLR+ | Nationwide | 2021-26 | €21M

The Accountable Local Governance Programme (PGLR+) strengthens civic participation and transparency at the grassroots level to re-establish a social contract between citizens and local authorities. Besides enabling the participation of 9,400 young leaders, including 4,300 women, in local governance, PGLR+ focuses on transparency-building. It created the national [Information and Transparency System](#) and rolled out several Digital Archiving Centres in youth centres, ensuring public access to key reports and public service assessments. Now, local governments are diversifying information channels to reach remote communities, and are regularising public consultations, such as in budget debates and within conflict-resolution committees. So far, municipalities have increased their transparency score from 40% in 2023 to 74% in 2024.

Partners: EKN, Ministry of Youth, Ministry Territorial Administration, SNV, Oxfam, Cordaid, and Voice for Thought (V4T)

BLUE DEAL | Nationwide | 2024-25 | €439.4K

Wastewater management in Mali is severely strained, particularly in Bamako. While eight treatment plants

have been constructed, most are poorly maintained and inadequate for the current wastewater type and volume. BLUE DEAL helps strengthen the National Wastewater Agency's (ANGESEM) operations to support environmental cleanliness. It improves ANGESEM's technical ability in sustainable urban wastewater management and has participated in a Water Governance Assessment, providing a baseline for sector reform and compliance. Targeted training for engineers and operators, paired with coordination between national and municipal actors, is promoting more efficient, accountable practices.

Partners: Dutch Water Authorities (Rijn & IJssel, De Dommel and Wetterskip Fryslân), Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development, ANGESEM, and SNV

GIRE-BS | Nationwide | 2025-27 | €1M

GIRE-BS is an equitable water resource management initiative in the Bani and Sourou basins. It supports the completion of legal and regulatory IWRM frameworks, increases basin users' awareness about water agencies' roles and responsibilities, improves the early flood warning system, and supports management transfer to the National Water Authority.

Partners: EKN, National Water Authority, and SNV

PASEM 2 | Nationwide | 2023-27 | €7M

Livestock, which accounts for 40 per cent of primary [sector GDP](#), is under immense pressure due to several intersecting factors. Now in its second phase, PASEM 2 (Livestock Sector Support Programme in Mali) builds on its earlier success, enhancing pastoral infrastructure and livestock value chains. In 2024, the four multi-actor management conventions convened by PASEM 2 contributed to improvements in pastoral mobility and governance of grazing areas. Further, it has advanced participatory planning, an update of the Pastoral Development Scheme, infrastructure development, and initiated mapping tools with the National Geographic Institute.

Partners: EKN, Ministry of Livestock, SNV, VSF-Swiss, Regional Councils of Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao

SNV is a global development partner deeply rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. With 60 years of experience and a team of approximately 1,600 people, we strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems. Working on the core themes of gender equality and social inclusion, climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance, we tailor our approaches to different contexts to achieve large-scale impact and create sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

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Visit the SNV website for an overview of our projects in Mali.

snv.org/country/mali

